Abstract

Subtitling transmission system.

A method of simultaneously transmitting a video signal and encoded data representing graphic images is disclosed. The invention is particularly applicable for transmitting multilingual subtitles with a video program. The graphic images are rectangular regions within the active video area. They are transmitted in the form of bitmaps. The invention not only allows any character font or size to be displayed, but also the definition of e.g. a program provider's logo. The encoded data includes a time stamp to specify the time at which a subtitle is to be displayed. Preferred embodiments of the invention include the transmission of colour-look-up-table (CLUT) data and a compatibility code indicating a required minimum number of entries of said colour-look-up-table. For receivers with a CLUT having more entries than necessary, a map table is transmitted for mapping the pixel data width to the input witdh of the relevant CLUT. The method is applicable to Direct Video Broadcast systems wherein the video signal is MPEG2 encoded and the graphic images are accommodated in a private data stream of an MPEG2 Transport Stream.

Fig.6